The Centaurian Sentinel

Dedicated to J. Michael Straczynski's television series Babylon 5.

Special Convention Issue

BABYLON 5 – THE LAST BEST HOPE FOR TV

Each month ***The Centaurian Sentinel*** features interviews with BABYLON 5 related personalities. Following are previews from interviews that will be appearing in future issues.

RICHARD BIGGS
Dr. Stephen Franklin

"It's a lot more of a family type unit, much more relaxed, you get to talk the producers and the writers, it's a little bit slower than daytime, it's not as predictable as daytime. I was watching today on one of the soaps, the same story that I did five years ago, they're doing it again; with probably with the same outcome, but on BABYLON 5, the outcome isn't set in cement as much as daytime is. On BABYLON 5, you're not too sure what the ending is going to be, that's what I like about it."

BRUCE BOXLEITNER
Captain John Sheridan

"The trouble with BABYLON 5 is that we don't have enough markets to really get in there with the exposure that *Star Trek* and *The X-Files* have. In some markets, we're going to go head-to-head with *Deep Space Nine*, and we'll give them a run for their money. There's kind of a piratical eeling on the set. We feel like the underdogs, we're the non-*Star Trek* show and we've managed to get to the third season, which in my experience in television means that, "you're on". Now someone has recognized you and now Warner Bros. has taken the show seriously, they really have. They can't deny the fan's support through the mail. It's a very cold world [television] – and they could've dumped us at any time. But with this last season; with the culmination of the pilot, first, second, and third season; they've stuck with it and they are now getting some great return. Obviously, they realize they have something that is appealing to people and they are going to stick with it."

CLAUDIA CHRISTIAN
Commander
Susan Ivanova

"Well, Andrea chose to quit the show. We were going to develop the relationship, we were actually going to HAVE a relationship, but she left the show, so they had to wrap it up in one episode, because they had already touched upon it. I didn't have any problem about the whole lesbian issue, if that's what you mean. I just thought it should be very tasteful, since this is also a family show, a lot of kids watch this. Look, now *Deep Space Nine* has women kissing on it, but we were trying to be more subtle. Hey! I was the first lesbian commander in space, DAMNIT!!! (laughing)"

JOSHUA COX
Lieutenant David Corwin

"I certainly hope there is more to come for Corwin himself, because I enjoy playing him and certainly would like to be playing an even more developed version of him. So it's been fun, especially this season, quite a lot of fun, with his promotion and his escapades in the episode "Exogenesis", he's really becoming a more 3-D person. I'm curious to see what the fans think too. I have gotten a few letters and I'd love to hear more, it's always great to get those letters and support because sometimes I feel like I'm hanging on to the tail of this thing."

JERRY DOYLE
Security Chief
Michael Garibaldi

"This show [B5] shows consequences more so than other shows. Other shows will show violence and sex, and that's all great and I love watching it too, but violence just for the sake of violence is gratuitous. We are still dealing with issues in 2260 that we are dealing with today. Terrorism, personal problems, racism, relationships, alcoholism, drug addiction. What are the consequences of these long term? Mind wiping? Is it a good idea or not? If you had the capability today, would Ted Bundy have been mind wiped and serving society? We brought up the death penalty; the electric chair. Pay-per-view executions? Would you pay $19.95 to see a murderer get whacked? I would."

DAVID J. EAGLE
Director - "In the Shadow of Z'Ha'Dum", "A Day in the Strife", "Dust to Dust", "Severed Dreams", "And the Rock Cried Out, No Hiding Place"

"Usually when I get any script, I read it and look at it and I think about how to do it and having done several of the shows you know you can do it this way and that way. "Severed Dreams" came along and that was the first time I've ever read any script for anything where I actually said to myself out loud, 'How are we going to do this?!?' Usually I know how we're going to do it, because you know you've done a lot of those things before, but knowing what the budget is for the show, knowing what the sets are like, knowing what our parameters and limitations are. You look at a script like #310, which called for a D-Day-like invasion of Babylon 5, while literally hundreds of fighters and ships are re-enacting *Star Wars* outside. "Severed Dreams", out of all of the episodes I've done, I literally said to myself, 'How are we going to do this?!'"

JOHN C. FLINN III
Director of Photography. Director - "TKO', "Soul Mates", "The Long Twilight Struggle", "Ceremonies of Light and Dark", "Grey 17 is Missing"

"Joe (Straczynski) makes it pretty clear of what he wants to see and what he doesn't want to see. His imagination is colorful, so you build from there. You take his ideas . . . 'How can I enhance what he's just come up with?' I can give it more time because I'll get it a week early, I can work on that (his ideas) and build from it. Then I can share my ideas with Joe and and John (Copeland), they'll change it. I'm just building on his words, and I take it and go. It's a fun part when you get to different sets, and different turn-around stories, it's an about-face there. It's a whole new 'what's happened here?' And we get these twists and it's a lot of fun"

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Membership Form on page 4

The Centaurian Sentinel™

Dedicated to J. Michael Straczynski's television series Babylon 5.

Back Issues of *The Centaurian Sentinel*

All back issues listed below are available in limited quantities, due to demand some issues have been reprinted. Please indicated issue number needed when ordering. Issues are $1.00 each in the US and Canada, $2.00 overseas (in US funds). Price includes postage and handling.

1 – **Summer 1994**, Furlan/Delenn and O'Hare/Sinclair profiles, "Midnight on the Firing Line" and "The Soul Hunter" summaries (6 pages)

2 – **October 1994**, Jurasik/Londo and Christian/Ivanova profiles, "And the Sky Full of Stars" and "Infection" summaries, article on O'Hare at a local appearance, announcement of O'Hare leaving and Boxleitner joining B5 (6 pages)

3 – **November 1994**, Katsulas/G'Kar and Doyle/Garibaldi profiles, "The War Prayer", "Born to the Purple", "Believers", and "The Parliament of Dreams" summaries (6 pages)

4 – **December 1994**, Kosh and Thompson/Talia profiles, "Mind War", "Deathwalker", and "Survivors" summaries, article on B5's presence at a NYC convention, E-Con report (6 pages)

5 – **January 1995**, n'grath and Biggs/Franklin profiles, "Grail", "Signs and Portents", "TKO", and "Eyes" summaries, special effects article (6 pages)

6 – **February 1995**, Furst/Vir, Mumy/Lennier, and Na'toth profiles, "Legacies", "A Voice in the Wilderness" - Parts 1 and 2, and "Babylon Squared" summaries, article on B5 sources online (6 pages)

7 – **March 1995**, John Vornholt interview, Morden and Pak'ma'ra, and , J'iv profiles, "The Quality of Mercy" and "Chrysalis" summaries, season one episode list, B5 vs. Star Trek article, B5 stars at Planet Hollywood article (8 pages)

8 – **April 1995,** Laura Hitchcock, editor of B5 comic, interview, Takashima, Lyta, and Kyle profiles, "The Gathering" summary, "In Darkness Find Me" and "Treason" comic summaries, Boston Bash '95 report (8 pages)

9 – **May 1995**, Jerry Doyle interview, Furlan/Delenn and Boxleitner/Sheridan profiles, "Points of Departure" summary, "In Harm's Way" and "The Price of Fate" comic summaries, I-Con report (8 pages)

10 – **June 1995**, "Revelations" and "The Geometry of Shadows" summaries, "With Friends Like These" comic summary, Keffer and Drazi profiles, On the Road with B5 article, Babcom'95 report (8 pages)

11 – **July 1995**, JMS interview, "Distant Star" summary, "Against the Odds" comic summary, Big Bang report (8 pages)

12 – **August 1995**, Ardwight Chamberlain interview, "A Spider in the Web" summary, Crescent City Con and Atlanta Comic and Fantasy Fair reports, magazine guide (8 pages)

13 – **September 1995**, Claudia Christian interview, "Soul Mates" summary, "Survival the Hard Way", and "Silent Enemies" comic summaries, Star Quest report, articles on B5 Web sites and merchandise (8 pages)

14 – **October 1995**, Pat Tallman interview, "A Race Through Dark Places" and "The Coming of Shadows" summaries, Summer Sci-Fi Experience, Babcom '95, and Farpoint reports, B5's creation article (8 pages)

15 – **November 1995**, John Copeland interview, "Gropos" summary, "Laser, Mirror, Starweb" – Part 1 comic summary, Stellar Occasion and Con-Rad reports (8 pages)

16 – **December 1995**, Ron Thornton interview, "All Alone in the Night" summary, "Laser, Mirror, Starweb" – Part 2 comic summary, feature on B5 fan-run vs. commercial conventions (8 pages)

17 – **January 1996**, "Acts of Sacrifice", "Hunter, Prey" summaries, articles on B5 conventions (8 pages)

18 – **February 1996**, Ann Bruice Aling interview, "There All the Honor Lies", and "And Now for a Word" summaries, visit to Babylonian Productions article (8 pages)

19 – **March 1996**, Optic Nerve Feature, "In the Shadow of Z'ha'dum" summary, Donovan Brown (alien extra) interview, Los Con report, B5 convention article (8 pages)

20 – **April 1996**, John Iacovelli interview, "Confessions and Lamentations" and "The Long, Twilight Struggle" summaries, Aggiecon and Vulkon reports (8 pages)

21 – **May 1996**, Mira Furlan interview, Bill Mumy interview, "Divided Loyalties" summary, I-Con, Phoenix I, La La La Con reports, B5 insignias (10 pages)

22 – **June 1996**, Richard Biggs interview, Michael O'Hare interview, "Comes the Inquisitor" summary, Sci-Fi Dreamin, Odyssey Trek, and Starfest Safari reports (8 pages)

23 – **July 1996**, Peter Jurasik interview, Stephen Furst interview, Majel Barrett-Roddenberry interview, ISN interview with Londo (Jurasik), "The Fall of Night" summary , season 2 episode list (10 pages)

24 – **August 1995**, JMS interview, "Matters of Honor" summary, Rebelcon, Chicago Comicon and Shoreleave reports (8 pages)

25 – **September 1996**, Jerry Doyle interview - part 1, "Convictions" summary, "Voices" novel summary, article on Foundation Imaging parting from Babylonian Productions, Fantasticon and Toronto Trek report (8 pages)

26 – **October 1996**, Andrea Thompson interview, Jerry Doyle interview - part 2, "A Day in the Strife" summary, visit to Babylonian Productions article (8 pages)

27 – **November 1996**, Claudia Christian interview, JMS/Gene Roddenberry comparison article, "Passing Though Gethsemane" summary, reports on Fantasticon, Dallas AIDs Lifewalk, Atlantic Starcon & Comics, and a NYC B5 party (10 pages)

28 – **December 1996**, George Johnson interview, JMS on Spoo article, "Voices of Authority", "Dust to Dust", and "Exogenesis" summaries, Bruce Boxleitner pin-up (8 pages)

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Visit ***The Centaurian Sentinel's*** Web Page at: http:www.hway.net/dreamin/centauri.htm

BABYLON 5 continued from page 1

CHRISTOPHER FRANKE
Composer

"BABYLON 5 at the moment, is the only truly science fiction show which also requires new subtle sounds without just being bombastic like *Star Wars* or something like that. I also use a conventional orchestra, but only when it's appropriate for a big action, or big heroic scene. So it's a totally new sound to set up, I also do the music for *Walker, Texas Ranger*, and for a show called *Pacific Blue*, which is more alternative, modern rock.

"There will be an enhanced CD of the original soundtrack, which will include a CD-ROM track on it, with the "Requiem" video (a special music edit of the music set to images from the show that Joe shows at conventions). There will be a lot of background information, I hope to get some storyboards, maybe some drawings about the set, a lot of photos, possibly an encyclopedia of BABYLON 5 terms, a tech journal, maybe a selection of humor and jokes, the whole Franke background, the whole discography. There will be the second BABYLON 5 Soundtrack CD which will have music from the second and third seasons."

GEORGE JOHNSEN
Associate Producer

"Post production is the "Smokey Bear" of the film industry, what we do is run around and put out fires. I don't know, is there a "typical" workday? I haven't seen one. I can tell you my favorite day is when I don't get called from the lab at 4 o'clock in the morning saying there's a scratch in the film. That's my favorite workday! That does happen from time to time, though knock on actual linoleum, it hasn't happened in a while. The typical workday? We've got so many vendors and so many functions that we do out of this office that there isn't one. Like from this Monday, we transferred film to go up to the CGI folks, we sent off stuff to go to comps, we did an audio fix, we did an audio edit, audio mix, color correction, and this is all by Wednesday, that's how much we've done so far, and the rest of the week is just the same. So there really isn't a typical workday, sorry."

PETER JURASIK
Ambassador Londo Mollari

"I'm ALWAYS totally confused about the storyline. I mean, it's hard enough to keep up with Londo's storyline. In terms of the overall view, I figure Joe knows where we're going, he's steering the ship so he'll get me there. I never get confused about how to play my stuff, because I know where my storyline is headed. And if I ever do get confused, I merely have to go down the hall to Joe's dark, deep cave (KNOCK, KNOCK, KNOCK) . . . "Joe?"; and you will hear "GROWL!!!!!", the rumble and the roar from within and enter into the dark place known as the Joe Straczynski workroom and he will tell me where I'm going wrong. So, I never get lost with Londo. In terms of the big overall BABYLON 5 story, I'm like most fans, I don't know what the hell is going on."

ANDREAS KATSULAS
Ambassador G'Kar

"It's powerful stuff and Joe is a slave-master. You can't get a script like that and cheat, there's just no way to cheat. These are high emotions, these are really big stakes; we're not talking about a "my uncle is sick and dying, but he's not my favorite uncle, so who the hell cares whether he lives or dies?" kind of story, we're talking about where suddenly tomorrow, all of Pennsylvania is at risk. To bring a feeling to that of what the stakes are . . . gee, thanks, Joe. So it's good that he has me work on that kind of intensity for a while and suddenly to throw in something a little lighter and a little more fun."

JESÚS TREVIÑO
Director – "Divided Loyalties", "Sic Transit Vir", "Interludes and Examinations"

"A lot of people will say the best thing about working on BABYLON 5 is the hours. In most episodic television, the traditional workday is supposed to be twelve hours long; but I've worked on some episodes of some shows where things are not very well coordinated, or where you're dealing on location where a lot of variables exist. You can go into 13-, 14-, 15-, 16-, 17-, I once did a 20-hour day on a *Seaquest* episode, which meant we started at 7:00 am in the morning and we didn't finish until about 4:00 am the following morning, so it can get pretty rough. The nice thing about having scripts that are intelligently written that can be done in a seven day shooting schedule, and having familiarity with the sets. It's do-able within the eleven and a half hour days we have to do each episode. So that's one of the better things, and again it's fun, doing what I love doing most, which is directing, on stories that I have been reading and loving since I was a kid."

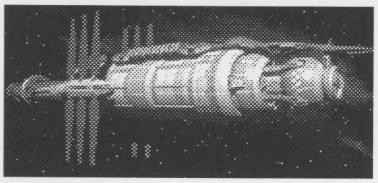
MARK LOUIS WALTERS
Prop Master, Background Actor

"Well, I really like this show, because it's something new all the time, it's very different and you have a lot of design work you have to do. In most shows, you have one or two things you might have to design; in comedy, you have a lot of sight gags. Usually those are only a few, but in this they're in every episode, you have all these things to design and come up with. I think the opportunity for that on this show is so great, that it makes it a lot more interesting for me than other shows where they only need a briefcase and coffee cup for props. Here you get to do it with something that is not even of this earth, it's a lot more interesting."

ED WASSER
Morden

"Morden's not evil and he's not sinister. Of course, you guys THINK he is. I don't think he is. I think Morden's great, he's just this amoral guy who likes to win. Opportunity, he's a businessman, he's a winner, he saw an opportunity, knocked on his door and he took it. The guy's got ice water running through his veins. All the other characters have a passion. Of all the characters on the show, Morden is probably the most difficult because he's not connected emotionally to anything."

complied by **Tom Bateman**



The Centaurian Sentinel
Convention Special

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THE CENTAURIAN SENTINEL – YOUR LINK TO THE B5 UNIVERSE

The Centaurian Sentinel is critically acclaimed by fans of BABYLON 5 as being an indispensible source for B5 related material. Many readers rely on our in-depth interviews with B5 people for reliable facts. Following are samples from interviews that were included in previous newsletters.

J. MICHAEL STRACZYNSKI,
Creator and Co-Executive Producer

"In reverse order, Mark Twain said, "If you want your picture to last forever you must neither overtly teach or overtly preach, but you must covertly teach and covertly preach." And part of that is one of my objectives with the show. I don't want to hit people over the head with morals and 'this is how I think you should think' . . . because I don't know. I haven't a clue. I'm the last person in the world to tell them how to think because I'm screwed-up myself. But I'm good at asking questions, and I want people to be hit by questions they have to think about. The "Believers" episode is a good example of that. It doesn't take a stand, it says what do you think about the situation? The ultimate thrust of BABYLON 5, if you pare away everything else and get right down to the heart meat core of what the show is about it's one sentence – 'do you wish to lead, or be led by others?' – which spins off into a lot of different directions. That simple question is kind of the core of it. I think that television has a kind of obligation to do that. The unexamined life being the worst possible situation. Making the viewer examine their lives is a large part of it. As to what goes into it, there's an awful lot crammed into the story. Historical allusions to Babylon, the original Kennedy assassination, Vietnam, WWI, WWII, Biblical allusions, Greek tragedy, and hero myth. I'm not sure really how one prepares to tell that, it comes of by being an eccentric I think, and I wouldn't have stayed with any one discipline for too long. I have a background in psychology and literature, mythology, philosophy, a bit of history. I think it's just a question of hearing things over a period of time in a lot of different areas. Then when you sit down to create something, someone says well where did you pick up these different areas. You just walk down the street and you saw a book and picked it up and you read it. My sense is that everything I've done in my life has prepared me for this one singular job, which is why I think that when I'm done with that I want to get out of television. I will have said pretty much everything I want to say at that point."

MIRA FURLAN
Ambassador Delenn

"I had to deal with heavy make-up in that pilot. That was such a strange experience, I've never done anything like that. My ideal as an actor is to get rid of all the 'devices'. If acting is searching for truth then you want to be able to do it without any devices like effects, make-up and so on. All at once I happened to be in the middle of something completely different, I had to find the truth, invent. That was hard for me, all at once you don't have your face anymore, you don't know who you are anymore. What do you work with? Where are you in all that, that is the question. Also they wanted to change my voice. I was without my face, they wanted to put lenses in my eyes, my whole face was covered . . . then they wanted to change my voice. So the questions that you pose to yourself is "where am I?", "why me?", and "how can I reach myself through all these obstacles?", because they are all obstacles."

Michael Zmuda

TRANSMISSIONS

The Centaurian Sentinel is a hard copy monthly newsletter for fans who want to be involved in the BABYLON 5 universe. It is sanctioned by J. Michael Straczynski, and is fan supported. Issues contain interviews with the cast and crew of the series, convention reports, hot news on the series, reports on merchandise, a letter column, episode, comic book and novel summaries, and character profiles. Past issues have contained interviews with JMS, Claudia Christian, Jerry Doyle – just to name a few. Future issues are scheduled to contain conversations with Bruce Boxleitner, Peter Jurasik, and Andreas Katuslas – up front and personal!

The Centaurian Sentinel will be two years old this summer. Back in 1994 the newsletter was started to support the new sci-fi series, BABYLON 5. The birthplace was at a *Star Trek* convention in N.Y.C. that I had attended early that year. When B5 was mentioned during a "coming attractions" panel a round of boos rose from the audience. I had remembered getting involved in the letter writing campaign to save the classic *Star Trek* series when I was a kid and I felt that this new series was just as important and needed all the support it could get! A base of B5 followers was starting to form on online services and the internet due to Joe's presence, but for anyone offline it was virtually non-existent. With that in mind the first newsletter was completed in July, and with the help of Sandy Bruckner and Mark Marmor ***The Centaurian Sentinel*** started showing up at sci-fi conventions around the world. Tom and Dennis Bateman hopped on board and helped us pass through the jumpgate.

The newsletter's name came from two different sources: "Centaurian" – from those lovable aliens in the early B5 episodes; "Sentinel" – in honor of Arthur C. Clarke's short story which influenced the movie *2001: A Space Odyssey*. The look of the newsletter was influenced by *Universe Today* – a publication you might find in the Zocalo. The first couple of issues actually had news items that might have took place aboard Babylon 5.

Our membership grows daily as the popularity of the show increases. Today the newsletter has an international membership and is the only link that many B5 fans who are not online have with the B5 Universe. We encourage members to submit their B5 related articles, photos and artwork for publication. Our goal is to keep you informed about the B5 universe, through its remaining story arc and beyond.

Membership includes: 12 monthly newsletters, a full color membership card, a free listing in "The Zocalo Exchange" classified section (20 words, more or less), and a listing in the Membership Directory.

I hope to hear from you soon.

Mykl

Visit ***The Centaurian Sentinel's*** Home Page at:
http:www.hway.net/dreamin/centauri.htm

MEMBERSHIP FORM FOR *THE CENTAURIAN SENTINEL*

Annual dues are $12 for U.S. and Canadian memberships, and $24 for overseas memberships. Please make U.S. funds payable to Michael Zmuda. If you have any questions please send them to ***The Centaurian Sentinel***, c/o Michael Zmuda, 17 Orchard Road, Putnam Valley, NY 10579 USA, or call 914/526-3834 (no collect calls please). GEnie online address: m.zmuda@genie.geis.com . The free classified ad may be used at any time. Your name and address will automatically appear in the membership directory unless you indicate that you do not want it to be included.

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